

PR03: 022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2003

CONTACT: Steve Maviglio

916-445-4571

**GOVERNOR DAVIS REMINDS STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR
COLLEGE GRANTS NOW**

All Qualified Students Will Receive Financial Aid

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis reminded California students that the Cal Grant Program is accepting applications for 2003 grants for financial assistance to college bound seniors and recent high school graduates.

“The Cal Grant program is the most generous state student financial aid program in the nation,” Governor Davis said. “Any eligible student who applies – and makes the grade – will receive a Cal Grant. This program is making college attendance a reality for thousands of young people. No other state in the nation has made this kind of commitment to its students.”

Cal Grants are available to students graduating from high school. They are awarded based on family income levels and a high school grade point average of at least 3.0 for students attending a four year university. Annual grants are intended to cover fees and tuition at the California State University and the University of California. Cal Grant awards can also be used to pay up to \$8,832 for tuition at a private college. Community college grants are intended to cover living expenses and educational-related supplies. Eligible students are entitled to receive the grants for each of the four years that they attend college providing they meet certain attendance and achievement criteria. Cal Grants do not have to be repaid.

To qualify for Cal Grants, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Cal Grant Grade Point Average Verification forms. The forms are due March 2, 2003 and are available in high school counseling offices and from college financial aid advisors.

The Cal Grant program has provided grants since 1955. In the early years, grants were awarded on a competitive basis with a limited number of awards available. In 2000 Governor Davis signed SB 1644 which increased the number of awards by making Cal Grants an entitlement program available for all eligible college bound high school seniors. This year, an estimated 200,000 students will receive awards from all Cal Grant programs.

In his recent budget plan, Governor Davis proposed an increase of \$48 million for Cal Grants to cover fee increases at UC and CSU.

The Governor has declared February as Cal Grant Month. A series of “Cash for College” workshops will take place across the state where students and their parents will receive assistance in preparing financial aid applications. Additional events designed to assist parents with the application process will be held throughout the state in January. For more information on the Cal Grant program or to see a list of events, visit www.californiacollegegoalsunday.com or call 1-866-476-8787.

###